(a) the details of the National Highway Projects undergoing in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the progress of these projects in the State;

(c) the expenditure incurred so far on each project; and

(d) by when these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) to (d) There are 49 on going National Highway Projects in Himachal Pradesh sanctioned under plan head. The details of the projects, expenditure thereon and target of their completion are as under:

Category of works	Number ot works	Sanctioned cost (Rs. in lakhs)	Expenditure (Rs. in lakhs)	Target of completion March 2003	2003-04
Improvement of riding quality project	22	4973.048	709.78	5	17
Road and Bridge projects other than riding quality	27	9225.270	6774.85	23	4
TOTAL:	49	14198.318	7484.63	28	21

Investment by Private Operators in Highway Projects

3086. SHRl K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many private operators working on BOT projects tiove also found vehicular traffic falling short of target; and

(b) whether such signals would discourage the prospective investors from private sector from investing in highway projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) In Build Operate andTransfer (BOT) Projects the entrepreneur independently assesses the traffic and accordingly quotes his bid. Therefore, the question of discouraging the investors from private sector from investing in highway projects does not arise.